



Hans and the Griffin's Feather: A Tale of Wit and Wisdom

Once upon a time, in a kingdom whose name has been forgotten, there lived a King without a son, but with a daughter who was always ill. None could heal her until a prophecy said that only an apple could cure her malady. Hearing this, the King declared that whoever could heal his daughter with such an apple would win her hand and the throne.

In a nearby village, a peasant with three sons heard of this decree. He sent his eldest, Uele, with a basket of the finest apples to try his luck. On the way, Uele met a mysterious iron man who inquired about the basket's contents. Thinking to be clever, Uele jokingly said, "Frogs' legs." The iron man replied, "So shall it be," and vanished. At the palace, Uele's basket was full of kicking frog legs instead of apples, and he was promptly sent home in disgrace.

Next, the second son, Seame, set off with a basket of apples. He, too, encountered the iron man and joked that he carried "Hogs' bristles." The iron man repeated his mysterious words, and at the palace, Seame's basket revealed only hogs' bristles, leading to another embarrassing dismissal.

Lastly, the youngest son, Hans, known as Stupid Hans for his simplicity, pleaded to go. Despite his father's doubts, Hans set off with his basket. He met the iron man and truthfully declared he carried apples to cure the King's daughter. The iron man blessed his journey, and at the palace, Hans's apples remained true to their nature. To everyone's surprise, the apples cured the princess!

The King, hesitant to give his daughter to a mere peasant, set Hans another task: build a boat that travels faster on land than water. With the help of the iron man, Hans succeeded once more. Yet, the King

demanded another feat: herd a hundred hares without losing any. Again, with a magic whistle from the iron man, Hans completed this task too.

The final challenge was to retrieve a feather from the Griffin's tail. Hans's adventure took him through various trials, including helping a ferryman and a sick maiden. With cunning and bravery, he outwitted the Griffin and his wife, securing not only the feather but also answers to the troubles of those he met on his journey.

Triumphant, Hans returned. The King, seeing no other option, granted Hans his daughter's hand in marriage. Hans's kindness and honesty won the hearts of all, and he became a beloved King, ruling with wisdom and compassion, proving that even "Stupid Hans" can outsmart the mightiest of challenges with a pure heart and a little help from mysterious friends.